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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CTME-00 /076 W
----------038433 150742Z /23
R 141511Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7866
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD; ALSO FOR USEC

EMBASSIES FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHES; PASS TREASURY FOR
US CUSTOMS SERVICE/SPECIAL CUSTOMS STEEL TASK FORCE/
ROSETTIE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, BE
SUBJECT: TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM: STEEL INDUSTRY DATA

REF: (A) STATE 172386; (B) STATE 157105

1. ALTHOUGH HAMPERED TO SOME EXTENT BY VACATION ABSENCES
OF KEY CONTACTS IN STEEL INDUSTRY, EMBASSY HAS BEGUN
PROCESS OF ACCUMULATING PRODUCTION AND PRICE INFORMATION
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FROM PUBLIC SOURCES AND FROM INFORMAL APPROACHES TO LOCAL
INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

2. PRODUCTION DATA: (ALL FIGURES IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS)

(A) CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION (THOUSAND METRIC TONS)

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JANUARY/MARCH 1978.....3,156
APRIL/JUNE.....3,039
JANUARY/JUNE.....6,195

(B) FINISHED STEEL PRODUCTION (THOUSAND METRIC TONS)

JANUARY/MARCH 1978.....3,156
APRIL/JUNE.....3,258
JANUARY/JUNE.....6,414

(C) MIX OF CRUDE STEELMAKING PROCESSES. FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR FIRST QUARTER AND FOR APRIL 1978. PLEASE NOTE THAT CONTINUOUS CASTING OUTPUT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CRUDE STEEL OUTPUT.

JANUARY 1978:

CRUDE STEEL...1, 042,546 MT
BASIC OXYGEN AND ANALAGOUS PROCESSES...758,351MT
ELECTRIC ARC....284,195 MT
CONTINUOUS CASTING...196,186 MT

FEBRUARY 1978:

CRUDE STEEL...996,731 MT
BASIC OXYGEN AND ANALAGOUS PROCESSES...737,071MT
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ELECTRIC ARC...259,660 MT
CONTINUOUS CASTING...166,762 MT

MARCH 1978:

CRUDE STEEL...1,111,683 MT
BASIC OXYGEN AND ANALAGOUS PROCESSES...812,752 MT
ELECTRIC ARC...298,931 MT
CONTINUOUS CASTING...201,960 MT

JANUARY/MARCH 1978:

CRUDE STEEL...3,150,960
BASIC OXYGEN AND ANALAGOUS PROCESSES...2,308,174 MT
ELECTRIC ARC...842,786 MT
CONTINUOUS CASTING...564,908 MT

APRIL 1978:

CRUDE STEEL...1,101,634 MT
BASIC OXYGEN AND ANALAGOUS PROCESSES...822,462 MT
ELECTRIC ARCH...279,172 MT

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CONTINUOUS CASTING...213,165 MT
NOTE: ALL OF FOREGOING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM LE
COMITE DE LA SIDERURGIE BELGE IN BRUSSELS.

3. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF
WEEKLY STEEL SUMMARY AND PRICE LIST FOR MAJOR PRODUCT CATE-
GORIES APPEARING IN SPECIALIZED FINANCIAL PUBLICATION
ECHOS DE LA BOURSE (JULY 12). WE HAVE ALSO INCLUDED A

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CTME-00 /076 W
----------038822 150743Z /22
R 141511Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7867
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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LISTING OF PRICES FOR STEEL SCRAP. PLEASE ADVISE IF
WEEKLY GENERAL SUMMARY OF THIS SORT IS USEFUL AND WHETHER
WE SHOULD CONTINUE IT. IF THIS IS DESIRED, WE SUGGEST
THIS BE MADE REGULAR CERP REQUIREMENT.

BEGIN TRANSLATION:

(A) BELGIAN CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION DURING JUNE 1978 WAS
834,000 TONS COMPARED TO 1,102,000 TONS IN MAY AND
1,104,000 TONS IN APRIL. THE JUNE 1977 FIGURE WAS
949,000 TONS. THE NOTICEABLE DECLINE IN THE JUNE LEVEL
WAS DUE LARGELY TO STRIKES DURING THE COURSE OF THE MONTH.

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THE MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER REACHED
1,013,000 TONS COMPARED TO 1,052,000 TONS IN THE FIRST
QUARTER.
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(B) FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, TOTAL CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION
IN BELGIUM AMOUNTED TO 6,197,000 TONS COMPARED TO
5.9 MILLION TONS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1977--AN INCREASE
OF 5.03 PERCENT COMPARED TO INCREASES OF 8.3 PERCENT FOR
THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1978, 9.51 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST
FOUR MONTHS, AND 5.69 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER.

(C) THERE HAS BEEN NOT MUCH CHANGE ON THE STEEL MARKET
THIS WEEK (JULY 5-12). ORDERS FOR THE FIRST FIFTEEN DAYS
OF JUNE INDICATE THAT BELGIAN SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES
WILL BE RATHER IMPORTANT, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 250,000
TONS IN JUNE 1978 AGAINST THE VERY LARGE EXPORTS OF
366,000 TONS IN MAY. SALES WITHIN THE EEC REMAIN WEAK AND
BELGIAN SALES IN JUNE WILL REACH THE LOWEST LEVEL OF THE
YEAR. DURING THE STRIKE, ORDERS WERE DELAYED AND EVEN
LOST.

(D) WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, A PERIOD OF ADAPTION IN THE
APPLICATION OF THE COMMISSION'S NEW MINIMUM PRICES AND
ORIENTATION HAS BEEN NOTED. MOREOVER, INTERNAL PRICES OF
HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS SEEM TO HAVE INCREASED BY ONLY
FIVE PERCENT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, PARTICULARLY
CONCRETE REINFORCING BARS AND MERCHANT STEEL. FOR OTHERS
SUCH AS SHEETS, A PRICE INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY TWELVE
PERCENT HAS BEEN OBSERVED OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

(E) -- EXPORT STEEL PRICES (FOB ANTWERP) IN BF/TON --

PRODUCT: 12 JULY 5 JULY

CONCRETE REINFORCING BARS 7,200-7,300 7,200-7,300
MERCHANT STEEL /- 7,800 /- 7,800
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NORMAL SECTIONS 8,600-8,800 8,600-8,800
BROAD-FLANGED BEAMS 8,600-8,800 8,600-8,800
WIRE ROD /- 8,700 /- 8,500
4-HIGH MILLED PLATES 8,800-8,900 8,800-8,900
WIDE STRIP PLATES 8,800-8,900 8,600-8,800
HOT ROLLED COILS /- 8,600 /- 8,500

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LAMINATED COLD-ROLLED SHEETS /- 10,400 /- 10,400
NARROW STRIPS /- 8,600 /- 8,600
GALVANIZED PLATES
(COILS OF 4 TONS OR MORE) /- 11,500 /- 11,500

4. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING PRICE INFORMATION ON STEEL SCRAP. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THIS INFORMATION IS USEFUL AND WHETHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT IT.

- STEEL SCRAP:
- (BF/TON, PURCHASED BY MILLS)

PRODUCT:	12 JULY	5 JULY
SPECIAL ELECTRIC FURNACE	2,300	2,300
ORDINARY ELECTRIC FURNACE	2,200	2,200
OPEN HEARTH (MARTIN)	2,200	2,200
SHEET SCRAP	2,200	2,200
BLAST FURNACE	1,700	1,700
SCRAPS - SHORT & LONG	1,600	1,600
PIG IRON, FIRST QUALITY	2,900	2,900
PIG IRON, SECOND QUALITY	2,700	2,700
SCRAP IRON	2,000	2,000
BLACK SHEETS	900	900
TIN PLATES	700	700
UNCUT SCRAP	1,800-1,900	1,800-1,900

5. WE HAVE ASKED BELGIAN STEEL FIRMS FOR COPIES OF THEIR

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
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OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CTME-00 /076 W
----------039261 150742Z /23
R 141511Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7868
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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1977 ANNUAL REPORTS, WHICH WE WILL FORWARD TO CUSTOMS VIA POUCH WHEN RECEIVED.

6. IN COURSE OF TRANSLATING TECHNICAL STEEL TERMS FROM FRENCH TO ENGLISH, WE WERE TOLD BY EUROFER & LOCAL BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE THAT BSC HAS RELATIVELY RECENT AND COMPLETE DICTIONARIES OF STEEL TERMS IN ENGLISH/FRENCH,ENGLISH/GERMAN AND ENGLISH/ITALIAN, FOR SALE AT ITS LONDON OFFICE. WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ASKING EMBASSY LONDON TO PURCHASE AND FORWARD THESE DICTIONARIES TO APPROPRIATE EUROPEAN POSTS. BSC CONTACT FOR THEIR DICTIONARIES IS T. DEELEY, INFORMATION OFFICER, BSC, 151 GOWER STREET, LONDON WC1E6BB. DE TARR

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SAS ID: 2011209
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM: STEEL INDUSTRY DATA
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88179e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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